STATEMENT BY DIOCESAN BISHOPS OF THE ORDINANDS OF
JULY 29, 1974

Because of our direct pastoral responsibility to the persons involved; our allegiance to Christ's gospel of love, justice, freedom and dignity for all persons; and our concern for the continuing community of the Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church:

1. We believe that this House should reaffirm its support of the principle that women be eligible for ordination to the Priesthood and episcopacy and that this House should urge the acceptance of this principle by the next meeting of General Convention.

2. We believe, since the General Convention already has taken jurisdiction on the subject of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood and the Episcopacy, that the next General Convention should decide whether the incompleteness of the ordination on July 29, 1974 renders it invalid.

3. We believe that our brother bishops who have performed Episcopal acts in violation of the Constitution and Canons of this Church in this regard must be censured by this House.

4. We believe that the pastoral care and discipline of the deacons who were presented for ordination on July 29, 1974 remain the responsibility of their respective dioceses as the Constitution and Canons provide.

Central N.Y.
New York
Minnesota
Rochester

Newark
Pennsylvania
West Missouri
Virginia